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MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FOUNDATION

National Resource Office
2 Jenner Street, Suite 150
Irvine, CA 92718-3800
(714) 727-3227

CYCLE SAFETY INFO

MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT STATISTICS — 1989

Decreases in both U.S. motorcycle accidents and motorcycle fatalities occurred in 1989 compared with 1988. Accidents decreased by 15.4% and fatalities by 12.4%. This downward trend in motorcycle accidents and fatalities has continued since 1980, except for minor increases during 1983-1985.

In 1989, there were 107, 264 reported motorcycle accidents and 3,128 fatalities compared with 126,765 accidents and 3,572 fatalities in 1988. The ratio of motorcycle accidents per 10,000 registered motorcycles was 254.85, a decrease of 11.5% from 1988. The ratio of fatalities per 10,000 registrations was 7.43, declining 8.5% from 1988. The ratio of fatalities per 100 accidents increased slightly to 2.92 in 1989, up 3.5% from 1988.

Statistics are obtained directly from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. When a state's accident figures are not available, MSF provides estimates based on historical trends. Criteria for reporting accidents to the police varies from state to state. Accidents with only minor property damage and those occurring on nonpublic or private property are sometimes not reported.

For 1989, the number of registered motorcycles in the United States was 4,208,986 — a drop of 4.4% from 1988. Registration figures provided by the states may include vehicles other than motorcycles, such as mopeds and off-highway vehicles. Also, the vehicle types that are included in registration totals may not be comparable with those included in accident and fatality reports for each state.

ACCIDENT REDUCTION MEASURES

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) cooperatively support the concepts of motorcycle rider education, high-quality licensing programs, and the promotion of safe and responsible riding as motorcycle-accident countermeasures. These organizations also recommend the use of helmets and other protective clothing to reduce injuries when an accident does occur.

In recent years, NHTSA and MSF have been involved in projects to educate motorcyclists on the risks of alcohol and drug use while operating a motorcycle. MSF distributes a video called "Riding Straight" on motorcycling and alcohol use to interested schools, community groups and recreational facilities on a free-loan basis. Write to the MSF Publications Office to obtain a list of other motorcycle safety videos available through the free-loan program.

MSF has developed a nationwide motorcycle-rider education program for beginning and experienced riders. The program includes an instuctor and site certification system, research-based and field-validated curricula, and other educational support materials.

An increasing number of states have adopted improved motorcycle licensing programs. MSF, in cooperation with the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, has provided technical assistance in licensing improvements to all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

This information was assembled by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Statistics Department from over 100 state motor vehicle and highway safety agencies. Although this information was obtained from the most authoritative sources available as of September 1990, the Motorcycle Safety Foundation is not responsible for its accuracy or completeness.

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation's purpose is improving the safety of motorcyclists on the nation's streets and highways. In an attempt to reduce motorcycle accidents and injuries, the Foundation has programs in rider education, licensing improvement, public information and statistics. These programs are designed for both motorcyclists and motorists. A national, nonprofit organization, the MSF is sponsored by five U.S. motorcycle distributors: Honda, Yamaha, Kawasaki, Suzuki and BMW.

1989 NATIONAL AND STATE MOTORCYCLE STATISTICS

State Data - 1989		Registrations	Reported Accidents	Accidents Per 10,000 Registrations	Fatalities	Fatalities Per 10,000 Registrations	Fatalities Per 100 Accidents
ALABAMA	(1,3,7,15,20-22,26,27)	46,460	1,165	250.75	33	7.10	2.83
ALASKA	(1,3,7,16,20-22,26,27)	11,801	142	120.33	8	6.78	5.63
ARIZONA	(1,3,4,7,11,16,20-22,24,26-28)	73,576	2,865	389.39	78	10.60	2.72
ARKANSAS	(1,7-11,15,20-22,26,27)	15,122	1,004	663.93	24	15.87	2.39
CALIFORNIA	(1,7,9,16,20-22,26,27)	643,137	20,899	324.95	620	9.64	2.97
COLORADO	(1,7,17,20-22,26,27)	112,244	2,081	185.40	37	3.30	1.78
CONNECTICUT	(1,7,8,11,17,20-22,26,27)	55,914	1,508	269.70	51	9.12	3.38
DELAWARE	(1,7,11,16,20-22,26,27)	7,774	274	352.46	4	5.15	1.46
DISTRICT OF COL	(1,3,7,15,20-22,26,27)	2,130	350 *	1643.19	5	23.47	1.43
FLORIDA	(1,7,8,16,20-24,26,27)	195,293	6,940	355.36	220	11.27	3.17
GEORGIA	(1-4,7,8,15,20-22,26,27)	70,271	2,058	292.87	60	8.54	2.92
HAWAII	(1,7,8,15,20-22,26,27)	12,159	540 *	444.12	16	13.16	2.96
IDAHO	(1,3,4,7,15,20-22,26,27)	36,108	613	169.77	25	6.92	4.08
ILLINOIS	(1,3,7,11,15,20-22,26,27)	224,062	5,844	260.82	129	5.76	2.21
INDIANA	(1,7,11,17,20-22,26-28)	96,729	3,056	315.93	68	7.03	2.23
IOWA	(1,7,16,20-22,26,27)	139,038	1,505	108.24	42	3.02	2.79
KANSAS	(1,7,8,10,11,16,20-22,26,27)	61,419	1,189	193.59	25	4.07	2.10
KENTUCKY	(1,7,11,15,20-22,26,27)	31,165	1,084	347.83	29	9.31	2.68
LOUISIANA	(1,7,11,14,21,22,26,27)	71,017	863	121.52	38	5.35	4.40
MAINE	(1,2,7-10,16,20-22,24,26,27)	35,166	634	180.29	20	5.69	3.15
MARYLAND	(1,2,7,8,11,19-22,26,27)	51,613	1,691	327.63	39	7.56	2.31
MASSACHUSETTS	(1,7,17,20-22,26,27)	58,984	1,950	330.60	62	10.51	3.18
MICHIGAN	(1,7,15,20-22,26,27)	142,061	3,336	234.83	68	4.79	2.04
MINNESOTA	(1,2,7,8,11,16,20-22,26,27)	123,308	1,748	141.76	37	3.00	2.12
MISSISSIPPI	(1,7,9,15,20-22,26,27)	18,022	550 *	305.18	24	13.32	4.36
MISSOURI	(1,7,8,16,20-24,26,27)	79,984	2,047	255.93	65	8.13	3.18
MONTANA	(1,4,7,8,16,20-22,24,26,27)	26,712	296	110.81	16	5.99	5.41
NEBRASKA	(1,7,16,20-22,26,27)	23,560	539	228.78	13	5.52	2.41
NEVADA	(1,7,15,20-22,26,27)	17,886	817	456.78	21	11.74	2.57
NEW HAMPSHIRE	(1,7-10,16,20-24,26,27)	32,741	744	227.24	24	7.33	3.23
NEW JERSEY	(1,7,9,11,16,20-22,26,27)	76,401	1,700 *	222.51	31	4.06	1.82
NEW MEXICO	(1,7,11,15,20-22,26,27)	38,528	1,342	348.32	35	9.08	2.61
NEW YORK	(1,7,17,20-22,26,27)	192,738	4,663	241.93	135	7.00	2.90
NORTH CAROLINA	(1,7,16,20-22,26-28)	55,844	1,857	332.53	52	9.31	2.80
NORTH DAKOTA	(1,3,7,17,20-22,26,27)	21,674	186	85.82	1	0.46	0.54
OHIO	(1,7,8,11,14,20-22,26,27)	244,003	4,798	196.64	163	6.68	3.40
OKLAHOMA	(1,3,7,15,20-22,26,27)	60,863	1,315	216.06	39	6.41	2.97
OREGON	(1,3,7-10,16,20-24,26,27)	69,928	683	97.67	49	7.01	7.17
PENNSYLVANIA	(1,7,11,18,20-22,26,27)	167,201	3,085	184.51	113	6.76	3.66
RHODE ISLAND	(1,3,7,16,20-23,26-28)	20,548	138	67.16	14	6.81	10.14
SOUTH CAROLINA	(1,7,16,20-22,26,27)	30,050	1,359	452.25	45	14.98	3.31
SOUTH DAKOTA	(1-3,7,11,16,20-22,26-28)	29,942	377	125.91	14	4.68	3.71
TENNESSEE	(1,7,8,11,14,20-22,26,27)	80,591	1,600 *	198.53	59	7.32	3.69
TEXAS	(1,3,7,15,20-22,26,27)	187,687	6,854	365.18	243	12.95	3.55
UTAH	(1,3,7,11,16,20-22,26,27)	27,063	886	327.38	22	8.13	2.48
VERMONT	(1,7,11,16,20-22,26-28)	16,365	216	131.99	6	3.67	2.78
VIRGINIA	(1,7,19-22,26,27)	61,411	1,580	257.28	33	5.37	2.09
WASHINGTON	(1,7,15,20-22,26,27)	108,082	2,586	239.26	75	6.94	2.90
WEST VIRGINIA	(1,3,7,8,15,20-24,26,27)	24,505	586	239.13	21	8.57	3.58
WISCONSIN	(1,7,16,20-22,26,27)	161,306	2,889	179.10	68	4.22	2.35
WYOMING	(1,7,11,16,20-22,26,27)	18,800	232	123.40	9	4.79	3.88
U.S. TOTALS:							
1989		**4,208,986**	**107,264**	**254.85**	**3,128**	**7.43**	**2.92**
1984		5,405,453	169,685	313.91	4,584	8.48	2.70
1979		4,933,401	175,280	355.29	4,875	9.88	2.78

* Estimated

Footnotes:

Registrations: (vehicle types included)
1. Street-legal motorcycles (on-highway and dual purpose)
2. Off-highway motorcycles
3. Mopeds or motorized bicycles (50 cc or less)
4. 3 or 4-wheeled all-terrain vehicles (sometimes known as ATVs or ATCs)
5. Other types of vehicles
6. No description available

Accidents: (vehicle types included)
7. Street-legal motorcycles (on-highway and dual purpose)
8. Off-highway motorcycles
9. Mopeds or motorized bicycles (50 cc or less)
10. 3 or 4-wheeled all-terrain vehicles (sometimes known as ATVs or ATCs)
11. Vehicle types 8,9 or 10 included only if accident or fatality occurs on public roads
12. Other types of vehicles
13. No description available

Criteria for Reporting Accidents:
14. $0-$199 property damage threshold
15. $200-$399 property damage threshold
16. $400-$599 property damage threshold
17. $600-$1,000 property damage threshold
18. When vehicle is towed
19. No description available

Accidents Include:
20. Motorcycle-related accident where property damage occurs (see reporting criteria above)
21. Motorcycle-related accident where personal injury or fatality occurs
22. Motorcycle-related accidents occurring on public streets/highways
23. Motorcycle-related accidents occurring on nonpublic property
24. Motorcycle-related accidents occurring on public off-highway lands
25. No description available

Fatalities Include:
26. Motorcycle operators fatally injured in a motorcycle accident
27. Motorcycle passengers fatally injured in a motorcycle accident
28. Others fatally injured in a motorcycle accident, such as pedestrians, car occupants, bicyclists, etc.
29. No description available

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